



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
January - February 2005

John J. Turner, MD, Named 2004 Distinguished Physician



Dr. John J. "Jake" Turner

Dr. John J. "Jake" Turner was presented with the 2004 Distinguished Physician Award at the Annual Meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society on January 25, 2005. Dr. Robert Bocker, Sr., who nominated Dr. Turner for the award, delivered the introductory remarks

highlighting Dr. Turner's career in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery.

Dr. Turner then surprised and delighted the audience by showing slides to illustrate his acceptance speech. The slides featured some interesting surgical procedures, as well as photos dating back to

Dr. Turner's fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Dr. Turner shared his evening with his wife, Carolyn, five of their seven children and their spouses, several other family members and former office staff members. MCMS President Marc Saunders, DO, presented Dr. Turner with a plaque commemorating the honor.



Dr. Marc Saunders presents the Distinguished Physician Award to Dr. Turner



Dr. Robert Bocker, Sr.

2005 Annual Meeting Installation of Officers Held

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on January 25, 2005, at the Holiday Inn, Boardman. The new officers and members of council were elected by the members present and installed by 6th District Councilor Dr. James Sudimack.



Dr. Sudimack

Dr. Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., became the 133rd president of the Society, his second term in this office. He also served as president in 2001. Having no nominee for president-elect, that position remains vacant at this time. In his remarks, Dr. Yarab noted the lack of members interested in serving and vowed to work to change that in his term of office. He noted that he is doing his part by encouraging the other physicians in his group, Dr. Beverly Atwater and Dr. Michael Engle, to serve on council.

Outgoing president Dr. Marc Saunders thanked everyone for their support of the "Where Does It Hurt?" media campaign and said he will continue to be a spokesperson to keep awareness high about the medical malpractice crisis and other issues impacting medicine in the Mahoning Valley. Jeff Hedrich of Prodigal Media presented Dr. Saunders with a book containing all of the materials and articles from the campaign noting that Dr. Saunders was the driving force behind the effort. Along with a plaque and a gavel pin, Dr. Saunders received bound copies of the *Bulletin* from his two years in office.



Dr. Saunders passes the gavel to Dr. Yarab

Other officers installed at the meeting were:

Delegates to the OSMA: Eugene L. Potesta, MD; Marc S. Saunders, DO; and Janardan Tallam, MD. Alternate Delegates: Robert DeMarco, MD; Chris A. Knight, MD; and Ronald M. Yarab, MD. Council-At-Large: Beverly Atwater, DO; Dean R. Ball, DO; Michael Engle, MD; and Richard Nord, MD.

Also installed as Trustees of the Mahoning County Medical Society Foundation were Rashid Abdu, MD and C. Conner White, MD.

Bulletin

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2005 Council

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JANARDAN R. TALLAM, MD *Secretary/Treasurer*
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EUGENE L. POTESTA, MD MARC S. SAUNDERS, DO
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CHRIS A. KNIGHT, MD THOMAS TRAIKOFF, DO
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CALENDAR

<i>February 23, 2005</i>	<i>Sixth District Winter Caucus, Salem Golf Club</i>
<i>March 18, 2005</i>	<i>International Dinner, Youngstown Country Club</i>
<i>April 14, 2005</i>	<i>HIPAA Security Workshop, Holiday Inn, Boardman</i>
<i>May 20 - 22, 2005</i>	<i>OSMA Annual Meeting, Cleveland</i>
<i>May 24, 2005</i>	<i>Society Dinner Holiday Inn, Boardman</i>
<i>June 23, 2005</i>	<i>OSHA Workshop, Antone's Banquet Center, Boardman</i>
<i>Aug. 31 - Sept. 5, 2005</i>	<i>Canfield Fair</i>
<i>September 27, 2005</i>	<i>Society Dinner Holiday Inn, Boardman</i>

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From the President

by Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., MD

I'm Baaacckk !

Due to the general lethargy in the medical community of Mahoning county, and the lack of any new blood into the medical society as of late, I have been re-elected as your president of the Mahoning County Medical Society. This fact in itself raises many questions regarding the future of our society and its role in the medical community. First off, if we do not get any younger members in the society there will be no one to fill the elected positions within the society. Hence, we currently have no president elect. Also, it is kind of hard to run a council meeting with no members on the council. We had to change the bylaws of the society to define a quorum as the president and one other member. It is pretty sad when the number of retired members of the society outnumber the active members at the quarterly dinner meetings. We can't get much done without the input and participation of our membership. Also, with the changing landscape in medical practice, you would think that younger members would want to be able to participate in the process of shaping the agenda, rather than reading about new medical policies and reimbursements in some "provider" newsletter put out by the insurance industry. I guess they'll just be content whining about it after the fact and complain that they had no say and nobody represents them (tear). Hey, when it's all said and done, it is their future.

The old excuse is "time". Nobody has any "time". "I have this and that as well as the other." The kids, the dog, my mother, your father, aunt Tilly, hair appointments, golf..... Well, you'll find you will have plenty of time when you're working a 60 hour week and netting out about 60k. Our dinner meetings will be packed at that point and every member will be at the council meetings to try and fix the "system" and to determine what went wrong. Guess what? At that time it will be too late, the ship will have already sailed. Funny thing about ships, they have no brakes. So, if you are young and just getting started, or planning on making medicine a career for the next few years, it is time to get involved to steer your ship into friendlier ports. Book early!!!!

Also, I would like to take is opportunity to thank Dr. Saunders for the wonderful job he did in the "Where Does It Hurt?" campaign. He sacrificed a tremendous amount of time and effort to make it a success. The campaign also showed us that the three county societies can work together to get our point of view out to the public. I hope to continue the program and to focus on not only the liability issue but on the positive aspects of medical practice and the excellent physicians we have in our community. The "Where Does It Hurt?" campaign served as a model for the OSMA's liability reform campaign.

So, if anybody has any interesting ideas or issues that need to be addressed, let us know. We cannot help if we are not in the loop. Also, please participate - don't wait for others to do what you can do better!!!

Yours in lackadaisical Mahoning County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald M. Yarab Jr. MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Medical Economics 101**

The system of health care in the US is in terrible shape. How do we know? Because that is what we are told. Every day, from every media angle, comes the mantra. Too expensive, too inefficient, not as effective even as in third world countries. My favorite statistic is that health care spending “consumes” 15% or so of our GDP annually. Does anyone wonder where that money goes once it has been “consumed”? I know that some of it goes into the mouths of the children of those people I employ. Some of it goes into our local banks to pay mortgages or car loans, and in savings for college or retirement. Very little, I think, ends up in offshore or Swiss Bank accounts. A lot of it goes into “technology”, another sometimes bad word

used to bemoan the direction of our business. Technology, as in computers, monitors, and other essential equipment we use and take for granted every day to do our jobs in the hospital, offices, and at home. Those dollars “consumed” by health care include all those people and all those jobs involved with all that technology that has to be designed, manufactured, delivered, maintained, and upgraded. I often wonder what the news media would have to say if the automotive industry made up 15% or so of the US GDP. I think they would marvel at its strength, and worry about its potential for demise if not supported, because imagine all those jobs at stake in such a large industry. Instead, we are barraged with bad news on how expensive health care has become, how it has to be fixed, to the point where, like the myth of global warming, it assumes a reality of its own. One cannot question the existence of the crisis lest they be seen as obviously out of touch, clueless to the reality of the day – a day that is defined more and more by the media and their agenda for political and cultural change, from both sides of the aisle, I might add.

Do we have problems with the state of health and the care rendered thereto in our country? You bet we do. Big ones, too. As a whole, our populace is sedentary, overweight, and prone to some very bad habits – eating too much, smoking, and driving fast without appropriate skills among the most obvious – and our solution for those who don’t have means to buy their own food, cigarettes, and gas is to subsidize them until they can, and when they too get fat, cancerous, or traumatized, we provide them all the health care they can swallow. Too expensive is right, but not because of the individual cost of services provided, more because of the volume and frequency of need and use. This is illustrated by the fact that costs have not been slowed to any appreciable extent despite insurers’ significantly reducing payments to hospitals and physicians over the past 10+ years for given services provided. Furthermore, there is little or no incentive on the part of the consumer or the provider to restrain from such frequency of use, so on we go, fatter, lazier, more malignant, but faster than ever.

In essence, this juggernaut of health care that is “eating away” at our economy has arisen not of its own volition, but as a response to the fundamental nature of our free society. Its size and appetite has not, cannot, and will not be improved by regulation. The solution lies in changing our demand for comprehensive, prepaid, immediate, and risk free relief from our often self inflicted ailments. Until that happens, however, know that you are putting people to work, and be proud to be part of one of the most productive industries our nation has ever seen.

Bits 'n' Pieces

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP:

James Armile, DO

Corrected phone and fax numbers:

Phone: 330-726-8727

Fax: 330-726-8729

Dr. Subbarayudu Cuddapah - retired

Dr. Karl Wieneke - retired

Dr. James Enyeart - dropped membership

Dr. Demetrios Lagoutaris - retired

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DELINQUENT

Membership dues in the Mahoning County Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Association were due by December 31, 2004. If your dues have not been paid, you are considered delinquent. As of March 31st, all membership benefits for both the MCMS and the OSMA will be suspended for those who have not paid dues. If you are currently enrolled in any benefit plan, such as the Workers' Comp Group Rating, health insurance, *athenahealth*, Accu-Medical Waste Services, etc., those benefits will terminate as of that date. Those members who have not paid 2005 dues have been notified by mail and fax. Please respond TODAY to avoid losing your member benefits.

2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2005 Tri-county membership directory is scheduled to be ready by mid-March. Prodigal Media, who is putting it together for us and selling the advertising, is hard at work to make this the best directory ever. PLEASE NOTE! If your 2005 membership dues are not paid by the time the directory goes to print at the end of February, your listing will not appear in the directory. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so ASAP to avoid being left out. If you have a question about dues, call the MCMS office at 330-758-1624. There is still some advertising space available in the directory. If you would like to advertise and have it seen in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties, this is the place! To place an ad, call Rob Kurtz at Prodigal Media, 330-707-2088.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

If you do not have a photo in the membership directory, if you are a new member since the last directory, or if your directory photo no longer looks like the person in your mirror, you may want to submit a new photo for the 2005 Tri-county Membership Directory. If you have a current photo, you may send it to the Society at 7355 California Ave., Youngstown, OH 44512, or email it to us at mcms1872@sbcglobal.net in a jpg or PDF file. We will also be scheduling a photo shoot at St. Elizabeth Hospital within the next week or two. If you are interested in having a photo taken, please call the Society office at 330-758-1624.



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5480 Norquest Blvd.
Austintown, OH 44515

Medical Education: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine,
Kirksville, MO

Internship: Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital

Residency: Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital

International Dinner March 18th

The International Dinner, hosted by the Mahoning County Medical Society Alliance, will be held this year on Friday, March 18, 2005, at the Youngstown Country Club. Flyers will be mailed in early March. This year's honoree for "Gem of the Year" will be Susan Yarab, wife of MCMS President Dr. Ron Yarab. The buffet dinner will feature Indian, Italian, Chinese and German food. This is always a wonderful event celebrating Doctors' Day, so make plans now to attend. There is no charge for MCMS members. Spouses and guests pay \$35.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A ROCK 'N' ROLL STAR?

Before college, before medical school, before early mornings and patients and malpractice insurance premiums, did you ever dream of being a rock and roll star? Could you hear the screams of the fans, feel the thump of the bass, see the flash of the strobe lights?



Well, here's your chance to take a trip back in time and recapture a little of your carefree youth! Become one of the Rockin' Docs. Do you play the guitar, bass, drums, piano, sax -- or maybe you're a singer. Whatever your talent or instrument, sign up to have a little fun.



If you are interested, call the Society office. The band will be forming and rehearsals will be scheduled. Who knows, you may just be a rock and roll star yet!

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Doctors Dietz and Whittaker Receive 50-Year Awards

Dr. George H. Dietz and Dr. Arthur V. Whittaker were recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society for their 50 years in the practice of medicine. The awards were presented by Dr. James Sudimack, 6th District Councilor, on behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association.

Dr. Dietz, a plastic surgeon, is a native of Brooklyn, NY, and received his undergraduate degree from Manhattan College. He received his medical education at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in 1954. After completing his internship and residency at The New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center and the Veterans' Hospital in the Bronx, NY, Dr. Dietz served as a medical officer aboard a Navy transport ship where he attained the rank of lieutenant.

Dr. Dietz came to Youngstown in 1962 and practiced here until his retirement in 1991. He served as president of the Mahoning County Medical Society in 1978. He and his wife Carolyn have seven children and reside in Youngstown.



Dr. and Mrs. George H. Dietz

Arthur V. Whittaker, MD, was born in Ellwood City, PA, and graduated from Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA. After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Maryland and service with the U.S. Navy Medical Corps in Hawaii, Dr. Whittaker completed his internship and residency at the Youngstown Hospital Association. He also served a cardiology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Whittaker headed the team that implanted the first rechargeable pacemaker in this area in 1974. He was named the head of the cardiovascular lab at Northside Hospital in 1975, the same year that he was granted a patent for the invention of special gloves to protect cardiologists against radiation from fluoroscopy. Dr. Whittaker and his wife reside in Poland. They are wintering in Florida and were unable to attend to accept the award in person.

OSMA LEGISLATIVE DAY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8

Here's your opportunity to speak to your legislators about current healthcare issues affecting our community. On Tuesday, March 8, OSMA member physicians, physician spouses and practice managers from across Ohio can participate in OSMA's Legislative Day. Participants will begin the day with a legislative briefing, then attend a luncheon with key legislators, and end the day meeting face-to-face with their local legislators. Participants will also receive advance copies of OSMA's 2005 blueprint for reform and the new Grassroots toolkit on how to organize physicians in our community.

The OSMA Legislative Day is a very efficient way to learn how to influence your local legislator and make significant impact to improve medicine for you and your patients. In the next year, we will work toward:

- ♦ Improving government funded health care plans such as Medicare and Medicaid
- ♦ Pursuing additional medical liability reforms to lower insurance costs and eliminate frivolous lawsuits
- ♦ Ensuring physicians are paid fairly by providing tools and resources to improve managed care reimbursements
- ♦ Reducing bureaucracy in medicine by streamlining the credentialing process and instituting a uniform health insurance card

It is critical that physician leaders attend this important event. Your local legislator has the power and influence to pass legislation that impacts your practice, so your input is critical to ensuring that your practice remains strong.

FREE to OSMA members, their spouses and their business managers. Sign up today -- seating is limited.

OSMA LEGISLATIVE DAY Ohio Statehouse, Columbus

**Tuesday, March 8
11 am to 4 pm**

To RSVP or for more information, contact the OSMA at 800-766-6762 or osma@osma.org.

TWO WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR MEMBERS

Mahoning County Medical Society members and their staffs will be offered special rates for two workshops scheduled for April and June. The member rate will also be offered to members of the Columbiana and Trumbull county societies.

On April 14, 2005, a **HIPAA Security** workshop will take place at the Holiday Inn, Boardman. This half day presentation covering the HIPAA security rule will cover all the steps necessary for practices to achieve compliance by the April 21, 2005 deadline.

Presenters for this program will be Tom Prislipsky, Esq. from Reminger & Reminger Attorneys at Law, and Pat O'Sullivan from the O'Sullivan Consulting Group. Flyers with registration information will be sent to all members in mid-March. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. with continental breakfast provided, and the program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost for this workshop will be \$75 for the first Society member participant and \$50 for each additional participant from the same office. Non-member participants pay \$100 each. Due to room size, participation is limited to 60 persons.

The annual **OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens** update workshop will be held on June 23, 2005, at Antone's Banquet Center in Boardman. The workshop this year will be conducted by Sylcom Safety Specialists, a local company that provides safety and OSHA training to businesses all over Ohio.

As in the past, registration for the OSHA workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast will be provided. The workshop will last approximately two hours. Certificates of attendance will be provided for all participants.

Cost for this workshop will be \$25 per participant for Society members and \$50 per non-member participant. Trumbull and Columbiana County members may attend at the member rate.

Flyers for the OSHA update workshop will be sent during the last week of May.

Mark your calendar now for these two important dates!

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